

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 041424Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2689  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0038

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SW  
SUBJ: 25TH COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) CONGRESS IN SWEDEN

1. IN A JANUARY 4 INTERVIEW WITH DAGENS NYHETER, LEFT COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) CHAIRMAN LARS WERNER PAINTED A POSITIVE PICTURE OF HIS PARTY'S FUTURE PROSPECTS ON THE EVE OF ITS 25TH CONGRESS, WHICH BEGINS THE SAME DAY IN STOCKHOLM. WERNER SAW A NEW LEFT-WARD DIRECTION DEVELOPING IN THE SWEDIPSH WORKERS MOVEMENT, A TREND WHICH HE FORESAW WOULD LEAD TO A STRENGTHENING OF THE VPK'S RELATIVE POSITION ON THE SWEDISH LEFT.

2. WERNER DEPICTED HIS PARTY AS AN EVERMORE RECOGNIZED ALTERNATIVE TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WHOM HE FELT HAD LOST TOUCH WITH THE WORKING PEOPLE. AS A (VERY) LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE, WERNER BELIEVED THAT HIS PARTY COULD ACHIEVE A POSITION OF PARITY VIS-A-VIS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN TERMS OF ELECTORAL STRENGTH, POINTING THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN FINALND.

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3. REGARDING QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT THE VPK'S DEMOCRATIC RELIABILITY, WERNER ALLUDED TO THE PARTY'S ROOTS IN THE "DEEP DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS" OF THE SWEDISH WORKERS MOVEMENT AND PROMISED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD GIVE A CLEAR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF HIS PARTY'S DEMOCRATIC INTENTIONS UNDER A SOCIALIST SYSTEM. WERNER POINTED TO THE MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION AS

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF HIS VIEW OF A FUTURE SWEDEN. ON THE CONTRARY, WERNER ACCUSED THE THREE GOVERNING NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE MODERATES, AS CONSTITUTING A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY.

4. CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET BLOC, WERNER NOTED THAT EXCESSES DURING THE STALIN ERA HAD "DAMAGED SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT" AND OVERSHADOWED "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS" IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. ENCROACHMENTS AGAINST DEMOCRACY AFTER THE STALIN PERIOD, HE ADDED, HAD DAMAGED THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISTS WHO WANT TO ACHIEVE A DEMOCRATIC COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT.

5. WERNER ALSO DECLARED HIS INTENTION TO FIGHT "SECTARIANISM" IN HIS OWN PARTY -- THE NOTION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT BEING A PARTY MEMBER AND THAT THOSE ACCEPTED INTO THE RANKS SHOULD HAVE A WELL-GROUNDED KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST "CLASSICS". INSTEAD, HE PLUGGED FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL WHO APPROVE OF THE PARTY'S PROGRAM AND STATUTES.

6. COMMENT: THE PARTY CONGRESS WILL MARK THE START OF THE VPK'S CAMPAIGN TO RALLY AS MANY DISGRUNTLED FORCES OF THE LEFT AS POSSIBLE AROUND ITS BANNER. IT BELIEVES THAT SWEDEN'S CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE FACT THAT A NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IS IN POWER OFFERS FERTILE GROUND FOR BUILDING UP ITS MEMBERSHIP ROLLS BEYOND THE PRESENT FIVE PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE AND IN INCREASING ITS INFLUENCE IN THE COUNTRY.  
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THE PARTY WILL POINT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AS FAVOURABLE TO "BIG CAPITAL" AND MADE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKERS. THE VPK WILL ALSO USE THE CONGRESS TO REITERATE ITS INDEPENDENT STAND VIS-A-VIS OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES. CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOVIET BLOC IS TO BE EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH MOST LIKELY MITIGATED BY NOT NAMING INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND BY ASSERTIONS THAT VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS OCCUR DAILY IN THE CAPITALIST WEST.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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